State of Minnesota			Dis	trict Court
County Hennepin		Judicial District: Court File Number: Case Type:	Fourth Pending Civil	THE COURT
Blake T. Madgett				<del>, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , </del>
Plaintiff(s)		Summons		
Vs.				•
Audit Systems, Inc.				•
	Defendant(s)	and the second of the second o		

## THE STATE OF MINNESOTA TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT:

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon Plaintiff or his Attorney an answer to the complaint which is herewith served upon you within twenty (20) days after service of this summons upon you, exclusive of the day of service. If you fail to do so judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.

Rule 114 of the Minnesota General Rules of Practice provides for use of alternative dispute resolution ("ADR") in most cases. Notice of ADR processes will be provided by the Court Administrator after this action is filed.

Plaintiff's Signature

David J. Madgett, Attorney for Plaintiff

Print Name

215 Barry Ave. S. Suite 115

Address

Wayzata, MN 55391

City/State/Zip 612-419-0589

Telephone



STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF HENNEPIN

FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT CASE TYPE FILE NUMBER

Blake T. Madgett PLAINTIFF

VS.

COMPLAINT

Audit Systems, Inc. DEFENDANT

Demand for Jury Trial

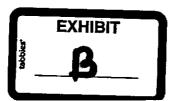
Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

## COMPLAINT

PLAINTIFF, as and for his causes of action, harassment, violation of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, violation of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, against the abovenamed defendant states and alleges as follows:

## Introduction:

The following case alleges prolonged harassment by a debt collection company. On an ongoing basis defendant collection agency used an automatic telephone dialing system (the "Autodialing System") to repeatedly call and harass Mr. Madgett on his personal cell phone. Use of the



Autodialing System caused long delays before a human representative was available. Moreover, once human contact was made, the employees representing Audit Systems were uninformed on the alleged debts and unwilling or unable to verify the authenticity or calculation of the alleged debt. Despite requests for verification, and notification that they were calling a cellular telephone, and thus causing Plaintiff usage charges, the calls continued. Accordingly, Plaintiff commenced this action.

## Statement of Jurisdiction

1. This Court has Jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action pursuant to Minn. Stat. \$484.01, the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act ("FDCPA"), 15 U.S.C. \$1692(d), and the Consumer Telephone Protection Act ("TCPA"), 47 U.S.C. \$1692(k)(d).

## Venue

2. Venue is proper pursuant to Minn. Stat. \$542.09 because the events giving rise to Plaintiff's causes of action against Defendant occurred within the State of Minnesota and the County of Hennepin.

## Parties and Location of Tort;

- 3. Plaintiff, Blake T. Madgett, is an adult resident of Hennepin County, Minnesota and resides at 3375 Hunter Drive, Medina, MN 55340.
- 4. Defendant Audit Systems, Inc. (hereinafter Audit Systems) is a foreign corporation.
- 5. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that at all times relevant Defendant conducted business in the State of Minnesota and in the County of Hennepin.
- 6. Defendant is registered to do business in the state of Minnesota under the name Audit Systems, Inc.
- 7. The location of the tort occurred primarily at Plaintiff's home residence located at 3375 Hunter Drive, Medina, MN 55340 in Hennepin County.

## Facts

## Facts most relevant to FDCPA claim:

8. Plaintiff is, and at all times mentioned herein was, a "consumer" as defined by 15 U.S.C. \$1692(a)(3).

- 9. Defendant is, and at all times mentioned herein was, a "debt collector" as defined in 15 U.S.C. \$1692(a)(6).
- 10. Defendant called Plaintiff's cell phone at least 50 times between 11/6/09 and 12/4/09.
- 11. Phone records show that between 11/6/09 and 12/4/09, there were 12 connected calls to Plaintiff's personal cell phone originating from 1-866-761-2178, a number registered to Defendant.
- 12. During at least some of these calls Plaintiff told Defendant to stop calling Plaintiff on his cell phone.
- 13. On one day alone, 12/2/09, phone records show three connected phone calls to Plaintiff's cell phone.
- 14. Three connected calls in one day is per se harassment of debtor.
- 15. On other occasions, Defendant called as many as five times in one day.
- 16. Often Defendant's calls were continuous in that the Autodialing System would ring until it reached voicemail, disconnect, and then immediately call again.
- 17. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Defendant knowingly harassed Plaintiff with excessive phone calls in an attempt to collect the alleged debt.

- 18. On several occasions, Plaintiff waited on his cell phone for a human representative after the Defendant autodialed him.
- 19. During some calls Plaintiff inquired as to the nature of the alleged debt;
- 20. Defendant was unable or unwilling to validate or to provide any basic accounting of how the alleged debt was calculated.
- 21. At no time after Plaintiff requested verification of the debt did the Defendant mail proof or otherwise contact plaintiff to validate the alleged debt.
- 22. Upon initial oral communication, Audit Systems failed to state the required disclosures outlined in 15 U.S.C. \$\$1692(g)(a)(3)-(5);
- 23. Audit Systems similarly failed to provide written notice of this disclosure within 5 days as required in 15 U.S.C. \$1692(g)(a).
- 24. At some time between 11/6/09 and 12/4/09, Plaintiff informed Defendant's representative that Plaintiff was represented by an attorney;
- 25. Defendant made no attempt to contact the attorney and instead continued to contact Plaintiff directly after being notified an attorney represented Plaintiff.

- 26. On 12/4/09, Plaintiff's attorney called Defendant in presence of Plaintiff;
- 27. Upon being asked to speak with Defendant's legal department, Defendant's representatives hung up on the attorney in two consecutive calls with two different representatives.
- 28. Such behavior evidences, and Plaintiff hereby alleges, systematic, company wide policies condoning flagrant violations of the FDCPA.
- 29. These calls constitute "communications" as defined by 15 U.S.C. \$1692(a)(2).
- 30. Although a business checking account may have been used to incur the disputed charges, the alleged debt owed by Plaintiff is the result of purchases for personal use, and thus it is a "debt" as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692(a)(5).
- 31. Such personal purchases on a Wells Fargo business account are allowed by the account agreement.

Facts most important for TCPA claim:

32. Plaintiff is, and at all times mentioned herein was, a "person" as defined by 47 U.S.C. \$153(10).

- 33. Defendant is, and at all times mentioned herein was, a corporation and a "person" as defined by 47 U.S.C. \$153(10).
- 34. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that on multiple occasions over numerous days, all prior to the date this Complaint was filed, Defendant contacted Plaintiff on Plaintiff's cellular telephone via an "automatic telephone dialing system" as defined by 47 U.S.C. \$227(a)(1).
- 35. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that during these telephone calls Defendant used "an artificial or prerecorded voice" as prohibited by 47 U.S.C. \$227(b)(1)(A).
- 36. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that the telephone number Defendant called was assigned to a cellular telephone service for which Plaintiff incurs a charge for incoming calls pursuant to 47 U.S.C. \$227(b)(1).
- 37. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that these telephone calls constituted calls that were not for emergency purposes as defined by 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(A)(i).
- 38. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Plaintiff did not provide express consent to

receive calls on Plaintiff's cellular telephone, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. \$227(b)(1)(A).

39. Defendant placed or caused to be placed these telephone calls in violation of 47 U.S.C. §227(b)(1).

## Specific Claims

Count I - Violation of Fair Debt Collection Practices Act
15 U.S.C. \$\$1692-1692(p)

- 40. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.
- 41. Audit Systems' continuous or repeated calling is per se harassment under 15 U.S.C. \$1692(d)(5).
- 42. Audit Systems' excessive calling is harassment under 15 U.S.C. \$1692(d) generally.
- 43. Audit Systems' failure to send written Notice of Debt after failing to provide the proper disclosures in the initial communication is a violation of 15 U.S.C. \$1692(g)(a).
- 44. Audit Systems' refusal to identify their company legal department or to disclose they do not have one while stating they are transferring the call to that department is a violation of 15 U.S.C. \$1692(e) generally.

- 45. The forgoing acts of Defendant constitute numerous violations of the FDCPA, specifically flagrant and repeated violations of \$1692(d)(5), \$1692(g)(a), and \$1692(e) generally.
- 46. As a result of these violations Plaintiff is entitled to actual damages sustained under 15 U.S.C. \$1692k(a)(1), and up to \$1000 in additional damages 15 U.S.C. \$1692(k)(a)(2).
- 47. Plaintiff incurred loss of business reputation, as a direct result of Defendant's FDCPA violations.
- 48. Plaintiff incurred emotional distress, as a direct result of Defendant's FDCPA violations and continual harassment.
- 49. Plaintiff is also entitled to seek injunctive relief prohibiting such conduct in the future.
  - Count II- Negligent Violations of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act 47 U.S.C. \$227 Et Seq.
- 50. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.
- 51. The foregoing acts and omissions of Defendant constitute numerous and multiple negligent violations of

the TCPA, including but not limited to each and every one of the above-cited provisions of 47 U.S.C. \$227 et seq.

- 52. As a result of Defendant's negligent violations of 47 U.S.C. §227 et seq., Plaintiff is entitled to an award of \$500.00 in statutory damages, for each and every violation, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B).
- 53. Plaintiff is also entitled to seek injunctive relief prohibiting such conduct in the future.

Count III - Knowing and/or Willful Violations of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act 47 U.S.C. §227 Et Seq.

- 54. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.
- 55. The foregoing acts and omissions of Defendant constitute numerous and multiple knowing and/or willful violations of the TCPA, including but not limited to each and every one of the above-cited provisions of 47 U.S.C. \$227 et seq.
- 56. As a result of Defendant's knowing and/ or willful violations of 47 U.S.C. §227 et seq., Plaintiff is entitled to treble damages, as provided by statute, up to \$1,500.00,

for each and every violation, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. \$227(b)(3)(B) and 47 U.S.C. \$227(b)(3)(C).

57. Plaintiff is also entitled to and seeks injunctive relief prohibiting such conduct in the future.

### Relief

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully asks for judgment against defendant in an amount greater than \$50,000, itemized as follows:

- 1. As to count 1, Violation of the FDCPA, we ask that the Court award \$1000.00 in statutory damages, \$30,000 for loss of business reputation, \$50,000 for emotional distress, and injunctive relief prohibiting such conduct in the future.
- 2. As to Count 2, negligent violation of The TCPA, we ask that the Court award \$500 for each phone call made, amounting to \$25,000 total.
- 3. As to Count 3, Knowing and/or Willful violations of the TCPA, we ask that the Court award \$1500 for each phone call made, amounting to \$75,000 total.
- 4. We ask that the Court award costs and attorneys fees.

5. We ask that the Court award any other just and equitable compensation to which the Plaintiff may be entitled.

Dated: January 12, 2010

Respectfully Submitted.

David J. Madgett MADGETT LAW

Atty. Reg. No. 0390494

215 Barry Ave. S. Suite 115

Wayzata, MN 55391

(612) 419-0589

ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF Blake T. Madgett

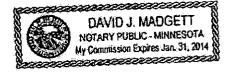
## VERIFICATION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- A. I have read this document. To the best of my knowledge, information the information, contained in the document is well grounded in fact and is warranted by existing law.
- B. I have not been determined by any court in Minnesota or in any other State to be a frivolous litigant or subject to an Order precluding me from serving and filing this document.
- C. I am not serving or filing this document for any improper purpose, such as to harass the other party or to cause delay or needless increase in the cost of litigation or to commit a fraud on the Court.
- D. I understand that if tam not telling the truth or if I am misleading the court or if I am serving of filing this document for any improper purpose, the court can order me to pay money to the other party, including reasonable expenses incurred by the other party because of the serving of filing of this document such as court costs, and reasonable attorneys fees.

Blake	Τ.	ma	dgett	
PLAINTIFF			<i>0</i> − − − − − − − − − − − − − − − − − − −	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
ADDRESS 3375	la Lud	1402	Dev. 18	*·
Medin	al P	7N 5	5347	
TELEPHONE	(o 17_	- 45	1-1985	<del></del>

NOTARY PUBLIC/COURT CLERK

MY COMMISSION EXPIRES / /31/2014



CASE 0:10-cv-00278-JRT-JJG Doc. 1-1 Filed 01/29/10

Michael A. Klutho

Attorney
MSBA Board Certified Civil Trial Specialist
612.376.1619

mklutho@bassford.com

BASSFORD REMELE A Professional Association 33 South Sixth Street, Suite 3800 Minneapolis, MN 55402-3707

612.333.3000 612.333.8829 fax www.bassford.com

January 29, 2010

Richard D. Sletten, Clerk of Court United States District Court U.S. Courthouse 300 South Fourth Street Minneapolis, MN 55415

Re: Blake T. Madgett v Audit Systems, Inc..

Our File No. 5581-3

Dear Mr. Sletten:

Enclosed for filing in the above-referenced matter, please find the following:

- 1. Civil Cover Sheet;
- 2. Notice of Removal by Defendant;
- 3. Copy of Notice of Filing Removal;
- 4. Answer;
- 5. Defendant's Corporate Disclosure; and
- 6. Our firm check in the amount of \$350.00 for filing fees.

By copy of this letter, we are serving a copy of same upon opposing counsel as indicated by the enclosed Affidavit of Service.

Very truly yours,

Michael A. Klutho

for

**BASSFORD REMELE, A Professional Association** 

MAK/msa Enclosures

cc(w/enclosures):

David J. Madgett

# STATE OF MINNESOTA ) ss. COUNTY OF HENNEPIN )

Service of the attached was made on JANUARY 29, 2010 upon the attorney(s) named below by mailing to him/her (them) a copy to his/her (their) last known address by the undersigned on behalf of BASSFORD REMELE, A Professional Association, as attorney of record in the said action.

## Service of:

Civil Cover Sheet, Notice of Removal by Defendant, Notice of Filing Removal, Answer, Defendant's Corporate Disclosure Statement, and Certificate of Representation and Parties

Mary Jue abbot

## Attorney(s) Served:

David J. Madgett

Madgett Law

215 Barry Avenue South, Suite 115

Wayzata, MN 55391

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 29<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2010.

Notary Public

CARRIE L. HUND
Notary Public-Minnesota
My Commission Expires Jan 31, 2015